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Summary record of the 8th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 12 October 2004, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Swe ..... (Myanmar)
later: Mr. Carl (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Austria)

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04-54674 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

Agenda item 79: Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (*continued*) (A/59/23, chap. XII, sect. A)

1. **The Chairman** said that the Secretariat had informed him that the draft resolutions and decisions under the agenda items currently being considered had no financial implications.

Draft resolution I (A/59/23, para. 176)

2. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

3. *Draft resolution I was adopted by 128 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.*

4. **Mr. Pisa** (United Kingdom) said that, as it had done in previous years, his country had abstained in the vote on the draft resolution. It did not reject the main goal of the draft resolution and would continue to meet its obligations fully in matters concerning its overseas Territories. However, the final decision on whether a Non-Self-Governing Territory had attained a sufficient level of self-government to be able to release the administering Power from the obligation to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter fell to the Government of the relevant Territory and the administering Power, and not the General Assembly.

5. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 79.

Agenda item 80: Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (*continued*) (A/59/23, chap. XII, sect. B)

Draft resolution II (A/59/23, para. 177)

6. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg,

Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

7. *Draft resolution II was adopted by 128 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions.*

8. **Mr. Estremé** (Argentina) said that the resolution that had just been adopted must be implemented in accordance with General Assembly resolutions on decolonization, particularly resolution 2065 (XX) of 16 December 1965 and resolution 31/49 of 1 December 1976 on the question of the Malvinas Islands.

9. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 80.

Agenda item 81: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (*continued*) (A/59/23, chap. XII, sect. C)

Draft resolution III (A/59/23, para. 178)

10. **The Chairman** said that in paragraph 20 of the draft resolution the words "fifty-ninth session" should instead read "sixtieth session".

11. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

12. *Draft resolution III, as orally revised, was adopted by 84 votes to none, with 47 abstentions.*

13. **Mr. Gertz** (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union reiterated its support for the efforts of the specialized agencies to provide humanitarian, technical and educational assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. However, strict compliance with the mandates of those agencies must be ensured. The

States members of the European Union had therefore abstained in the vote on the draft resolution.

14. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 81.

Agenda item 82: Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (*continued*) (A/C.4/59/L.5)

Draft resolution A/C.4/59/L.5

15. **The Chairman** said that the delegations of Ghana, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

16. *Draft resolution A/C.4/59/L.5 was adopted.*

17. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 82.

Agenda item 20: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Territories not covered under other agenda items) (*continued*) (A/59/23, chap. XII, sects. D-G; A/C.4/59/L.2-4 and L.6)

Draft resolution on the question of Western Sahara (A/C.4/59/L.4)

18. **Mr. Ononye** (Nigeria), introducing the draft resolution, said that the sponsors, now 43 in number, had sought to avoid controversial wording. The text was therefore based on that of the previous year's resolution (General Assembly resolution 58/109 of 9 December 2003). The changes that had been made were intended to reflect events that had occurred over the past year: the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1541 (2004) of 29 April 2004 and the resignation of the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General. The sponsors hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

19. **Mr. Gerts** (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the European Union and supported by **Ms. Grant** (Canada), **Mr. Sow** (Senegal) and **Mr. Rudakov** (Russian Federation), requested that, in the interests of reaching a consensus, a decision on the draft resolution should be postponed for 48 hours.

20. **Mr. Baali** (Algeria) said that he had no objection to the request, although, in his delegation's view, the text deserved unanimous support even as it stood.

21. **Mr. Bennouna** (Morocco) welcomed the desire to achieve a consensus. The aim was not to gather votes but to reach a peaceful and mutually acceptable settlement of the fraternal dispute between two neighbouring countries in the Maghreb. The draft resolution should, however, reflect the contents of the last two paragraphs — the second of which he read out — appearing under the heading "Western Sahara" in the introduction to the report of the Security Council to the General Assembly (A/59/2, pp. 7-8).

22. **Mr. Baali** (Algeria), speaking on a point of order, said that the discussion concerned not the substance of the issue but only a request that the decision on the draft resolution should be postponed.

23. **Mr. Ononye** (Nigeria) said that he had no objection to a postponement.

24. **Mr. Vankham** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) noted that, contrary to the information given by the representative of Nigeria, his delegation was not a sponsor of the draft resolution.

25. **The Chairman** suggested that the decision on the adoption of the draft resolution should be postponed for 48 hours.

26. *It was so decided.*

Draft decision on the question of Gibraltar (A/C.4/59/L.6)

27. **The Chairman** noted that the draft decision had been distributed only that morning. He suggested, however, that the 48-hour rule should be waived and that action should be taken on it immediately.

28. *It was so decided.*

29. *Draft decision A/C.4/59/L.6 was adopted.*

Draft resolution IV on the question of New Caledonia (A/59/23, para. 179)

30. **The Chairman** suggested that, in accordance with a request by **Mr. Gerts** (Netherlands), on behalf of the European Union, the decision on the draft resolution should be postponed for 48 hours in the interests of achieving a consensus.

31. *It was so decided.*

Draft resolution V on the question of Tokelau (A/59/23, para. 180)

32. *Draft resolution V was adopted.*

Draft resolution VI on the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands (A/59/23, chap. XII, para. 181)

33. *Draft resolution VI was adopted.*

34. **Mr. Oyarzún** (Spain) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on draft resolution VI and supported the principle of self-determination in relation to the Territories named in that resolution. At the same time, it believed that the principle of self-determination was not the only principle that could be applied to the decolonization process of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In relation to some Territories, including Gibraltar, the principle of territorial integrity should apply, in accordance with the doctrine laid down in various resolutions of the General Assembly.

35. **Mr. Estremé** (Argentina) said that, as envisaged in the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, regional seminars on decolonization were held only in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions and at United Nations Headquarters. The phrase "and other venues" in the twentieth preambular paragraph of section A of draft resolution VI was therefore inconsistent with the plan of action.

36. With regard to paragraph 2 of that section, his Government affirmed its full support for the right of peoples to self-determination in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970. At the same time, it should be clear that the reference to the principle of self-determination in that paragraph related only to the Territories named in the draft resolution. Both the General Assembly and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples recognized that there were Territories to which the principle did not apply, since there was a dispute over sovereignty. For example, in the special colonial situation in the Malvinas, the principle of territorial integrity should apply, so as not to permit attempts to destroy the national unity of Argentina. That accorded with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 2065 (XX), as well as subsequent resolutions on the question adopted by the General Assembly and the Special Committee.

37. **Mr. Pisa** (United Kingdom) said that, as in previous years, his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution. That reflected its full support for the right of peoples to self-determination as laid down in Article 1, paragraph 2, of the Charter and in paragraph 4 of the Millennium Declaration of the United Nations.

Draft resolution VII on the dissemination on information on decolonization (A/59/23, para. 182)

38. *A recorded voted was taken.*

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic

of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

France.

39. *The draft resolution was adopted by 136 votes to 3, with 1 abstention.*

Draft decision on the increase in the membership of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/C.4/59/L.2)

40. **The Chairman** suggested that consideration of the draft decision should be postponed until the revised text was issued.

41. *It was so decided.*

Draft resolution on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/C.4/59/L.3)

42. **The Chairman** said that the Russian Federation was not a sponsor of the draft resolution.

43. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Belgium, France, Georgia, Germany, Israel.

44. *The draft resolution was adopted by 133 votes to 2, with 5 abstentions.*

Agenda item 74: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (*continued*) (A/59/20)

45. **Mr. Basu** (India) said that his delegation welcomed the progress achieved by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) at its forty-seventh session, including the smooth transition to the rotation of all five Bureau posts among the five established regional groups and the recommendation that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Thailand should become members of the Committee.

46. His delegation noted with appreciation the activities covered by the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, despite the budgetary constraints, in particular on such priority themes of importance to the developing countries as disaster management, sustainable development and capacity-building. The work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, particularly involving the space debris mitigation guidelines, deserved full support.

47. The Indian space programme was applications-oriented because its purpose continued to be to develop and utilize space technology for national development. India kept the Member States informed of the outcome of its scientific research through the Scientific and

Technical Subcommittee. Recognizing the importance of new areas such as disaster management, tele-education, telemedicine and remote sensing satellites and acting in the interests of all, particularly the developing countries, India had been instrumental in securing the adoption by consensus of decisions to include those matters as agenda items in the period following the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).

48. With respect to the Legal Subcommittee, he noted with satisfaction that agreement had been reached to recommend to the General Assembly for adoption a draft resolution on the application of the concept of the "launching State". India attached importance to the subject of making the United Nations the supervisory authority for the future protocol on space assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment, not only because that would provide a means of supporting private legal initiatives in outer space but also because it would set a precedent for United Nations involvement in non-governmental private initiatives, and it considered that the initiative deserved careful consideration.

49. The main achievements of the Indian space programme included the launch on 17 October 2003 of a remote sensing satellite Resourcesat-I which had been launched into a highly accurate polar sun-synchronous orbit by the Indian launch vehicle PSLV. On 20 September 2004, with a view to improving educational infrastructure, a communications satellite named "EDUSAT" had been launched which would provide national and regional footprint coverage in extended C and Ku frequency bands. India had set up a project for the creation of a satellite and fibre optic communications network for all the 53 nations of the African Union the installation, initial operation and maintenance costs of which would amount to some $50 million over three years.

50. In addition to the Seventh Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Conference held in Bangalore, in which 400 delegates from 36 countries had taken part, an India-United States conference on space science applications and commerce had met in June 2004, also in Bangalore, which had provided further impetus for increased collaboration in space technology with the United States. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation activities had also continued with other space-faring countries such as the Russian Federation and France, as well as with developing countries. The Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific in Dehradun had also made considerable progress, providing specialist, post-graduation and short-term courses for scholars from 44 countries. In conclusion he said that effective implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III would further enhance international cooperation in space.

51. **Mr. Londoño** (Colombia) said that his delegation was pleased that the efforts of the Member States to implement the Space Millennium Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development, adopted by UNISPACE III, had been successful and supported the outcome of the review of the recommendations of that Conference which had been incorporated in the "UNISPACE III + 5" process.

52. Colombia attached great importance to the application of space science and technology for the prevention of natural disasters, tele-education, telemedicine and remote sensing. For that reason his Government had hosted the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas, held in Cartagena de Indias from 14 to 17 May 2002, which had adopted the Declaration of Cartagena de Indias and the Plan of Action. Both those instruments were currently being implemented in cooperation with the United Nations and the space agencies.

53. The recommendations of "UNISPACE III + 5" were the outcome of joint efforts to give effect to the wishes of the developing countries and to ensure the contribution of all States in the peaceful uses of outer space.

54. In conclusion he said that the Government of Ecuador was in favour of holding the next Space Conference of the Americas in 2006 in Ecuador.

55. *Mr. Carl (Austria), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

56. **Mr. Fallouh** (Syrian Arab Republic) expressed his delegation's satisfaction concerning the activities of COPUOS in implementing the recommendations of UNISPACE III. His country had noted with interest the work of the Legal Subcommittee, in particular on the status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space and the definition and delimitation of outer space, and the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, particularly

concerning the overall strategy for the implementation of the United Nations programme for the benefit of the developing countries.

57. Rapid qualitative and quantitative changes were currently taking place in the means and procedures of research and the exploitation of the results of the utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes. His country welcomed the efforts being made at the international level to use outer space in order to address problems of an economic and humanitarian nature, particularly in the interests of the developing countries.

58. The utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes required the international community to display a genuine willingness to act within a normative and legal framework in order to prevent the militarization of outer space. The Syrian Arab Republic welcomed the efforts of a number of countries to limit their expenditure on programmes for the militarization of outer space in favour of development projects. In order to achieve further progress at the national level, his country had established a committee on remote sensing and discovery.

59. In conclusion, he said that his delegation was gratified that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was to become a member of COPUOS and supported the idea of increasing the number of members so that it would be possible to take full advantage of the contribution of all countries.

60. **Mr. Gerts** (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the candidate countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Turkey), the stabilization and association process countries and potential candidate countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and the EFTA countries (Iceland and Norway), said that space technology and the use of space applications were playing an increasing role in society, becoming almost an aspect of everyday life. The peaceful use of outer space was of great interest for the benefit of humankind. Space technology could make a significant contribution towards solving the major challenges of the modern world, including controlling or even stopping climate change and reducing pressure on the environment, stimulating sustainable development, and creating acceptable living conditions for everyone on Earth. In a wider context, space science contributed to the efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the goals of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the World Summit on the Information Society.

61. In 2005 the European Commission would organize an international conference to explore possible cooperation scenarios not only with the space Powers but also with developing countries on the development of global services such as positioning, earth observation and access to information.

62. The European Union remained a strong advocate of the concept of outer space as part of the common heritage of mankind and, in that connection, had noted with interest the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) on its forty-seventh session (A/59/20). An important issue on the agenda of COPUOS was the review of the implementation of the recommendations of the third United Nations conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space (UNISPACE III). The recommendations of COPUOS, contained in document A/59/174, concerned further action to improve human living conditions and envisaged, in particular, the development of a comprehensive worldwide environment monitoring strategy, the use and application of global navigation satellite systems to support sustainable development, the use of telemedicine and the implementation of an integrated worldwide system for disaster management. The European Union appreciated the method of establishing priorities in the 33 recommendations of UNISPACE III and the establishment of 12 action teams to prepare implementation. It would make a separate statement to the General Assembly concerning the review of UNISPACE III in plenary.

63. Some subjects relating to the peaceful uses of outer space merited particular attention owing not only to their technical complexity, but also to their potential legal implications. For example, the growing number of private entities involved in space exploration and the increasing commercialization of outer space required a suitable legal framework and appropriate national space laws. Also, special attention should be paid to the increasing pollution of outer space by space debris. It could not be ignored that space debris would stand in the way of future space activities unless special measures were taken within the shortest possible time, at both the international and national levels. In that connection, the European Union appreciated the work

of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Committee on space debris mitigation guidelines.

64. In the context of legal implications, mention should be made of the draft resolution on the application of the concept of the launching State submitted for consideration by the General Assembly. The recommendations adopted by the Legal Subcommittee, based on the outcome of its work on that topic, would foster significant advances in space law and focus attention on national space legislation at a time when private space activities were on the increase.

65. Given that continued international cooperation in space science and technology was a prerequisite for progress, the European Union attached special importance to the activities of the International Space Station. European countries were also actively participating in international cooperation in the field of earth observation, as demonstrated by the European initiative "Global Monitoring for Environment and Security", which, together with the initiative proposed by the United States of America for the development of a common approach to harmonize earth observation data, was playing a significant role in improving living conditions and conserving national resources. The European Union also recognized the great importance of space technologies for navigation and determination of location and time. In addition to the existing Global Positioning System of the United States and the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System, the European Union was developing its own Galileo system.

66. In that context, he stressed the important role of the European Space Agency (ESA), which was responsible for the development of many European space research and space exploration activities within the framework of the common European strategy and was also participating in broader cooperation, for example, in the context of UNISPACE III and the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

67. Clearly, it was impossible to imagine life today without space science and technology, which were exerting an increasing influence on society and on the welfare of humankind. The European Union would make every effort to ensure the peaceful use of outer space for the benefit of life on Earth.

68. **Mr. Baloch** (Pakistan) said that his Government attached great importance to the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which promoted the peaceful exploration of the treasures of outer space for the benefit of all humanity. Recalling that Pakistan had chaired the working group of the Committee's Scientific and Technical Subcommittee since 1990, he welcomed the development by the Subcommittee of a template for a questionnaire on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III and the enhancement of the geographical distribution of the posts of subcommittee chairmen.

69. His Government supported all efforts to promote ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes. Militarization of outer space should be avoided at all costs. In that connection, there was a need to intensify the efforts of the international community to prevent the weaponization of outer space, including the exploration of ways of establishing a comprehensive and effective legal mechanism for that purpose. His delegation believed that that issue fell well within the terms of reference of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

70. He recalled that the General Assembly had adopted Principles relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space. Those Principles served as guidelines for remote sensing and prevented the use of remote sensing techniques in a manner detrimental to other countries' interests. His Government supported the incorporation of the Principles in a more binding legal instrument. There was also a need to give developing countries low-cost access to remote sensing data, which could have a wide range of useful applications.

71. His Government attached great importance to the efforts of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in support of disaster mitigation and management. The national space agency of Pakistan SUPARCO had been operating the Pakistan Mission Control Centre since 1991, as well as the Pakistan local user terminal of the International Satellite System for Search and Rescue, which was a ground services provider for disaster management support. His Government hoped that new technologies would allow the use of outer space to establish communication infrastructure for early warning systems, which could mitigate the effects of natural disasters.

72. His Government believed that greater efforts were needed to ensure that the benefits of space

science and technology could be used by all countries, including the dissemination of satellite data and the provision of training assistance and capacity-building. In that connection, he stressed the need to increase voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. The Fund's resources were needed for long- and short-term training for developing countries and for the implementation of the previous recommendations of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in that regard.

73. Lastly, he reaffirmed his Government's commitment to the effective implementation of the Vienna Declaration so as to promote cooperation in space science and technology and the sharing of the benefits of peaceful space research without any discrimination.

74. **Mr. Lichem** (Austria) said that his delegation fully aligned itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. He expressed deep appreciation to the leadership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for its serious and multidimensional efforts in many fields, undertaken in a spirit of initiative, cooperation and coordination. He also welcomed the new level of coordination between the chairmen of the Committee and its subcommittees and the outstanding work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in accomplishing the tasks entrusted to it despite its limited resources.

75. The agenda of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had undergone an interesting evolution, which to some extent reflected the developments in the agendas of other organizations and in other fields of work. An important turning point in that regard had been the holding of UNISPACE III as far back as 1999; subsequently, the World Summit on Sustainable Development had produced more concrete recommendations for action.

76. Practically all countries had an interest in the development and application of space technology for sustainable development. The field of water resources management was a clear illustration of that point. Taking into account the scarcity of water resources and its impact on human security, there was a need to develop a new integrated, multi-purpose approach and new forms of cooperation among States using the same water resources systems. Water resources management, which was currently characterized by the scarcity of both water and data, would be much more effective with the application of data obtained from space technology. He welcomed the decision of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the General Assembly to put the use of space technology for water resources management on the Organization's agenda and cited as significant examples of cooperation in that field the workshop in Rabat, organized by ESA and the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites in cooperation with the Moroccan Royal Centre for Remote Sensing; the International Conference on Space and Water: Towards Sustainable Development and Human Security, held in Santiago for the countries of the Latin American region; and the traditional Graz symposium, organized by the Austrian Government, ESA and the United Nations.

77. The framework established at the symposium would facilitate the next step, namely, the selection of a concrete pilot project area and the implementation in Africa of a space technology application project for rational water resources management, which would be a giant leap for humankind in the peaceful use of outer space for development.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.